

S03-6 Anti-doping reference for pharmacists

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In recent years, appropriate drug therapy and guarantees of safety are being sought not only by medical circles but also by the world of sport. Under normal circumstances, sport should be wholesome in both mind and body, but “doping” by the misuse and abuse of drugs and such is developing into a social issue. This is not just a result of the deliberate behavior of a certain number of people; many cases include use due to a lack of knowledge of drugs and doping, although eventually the sanctions received are the same.

Doping tends to be perceived as the problem of just a section of elite athletes, but since the introduction of doping control at the National Athletic Meet in Shizuoka in 2003, anti-doping measures were a problem close at hand. In 2004, international standards – including the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) prevention measures – came into effect and subsequently not just the world of sport but various national governments became deeply involved with anti-doping. Anti-doping guidelines in Japan were formulated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2007, stipulating that pharmacists should be proactive in the activities.

With the aim of eradicating doping, it was deemed that pharmacists can intervene by providing support regarding such issues as doping control; drug enlightenment; the supply of drug information; and therapeutic use exemption (TUE). It can be considered that pharmacists can use their knowledge and experience in drug information and monitoring services, and that such knowledge could lead to more appropriate drug use in sport.